

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**1.) Claim Amendments**

The Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 10, 12, 14, 22, 24, 26, 30, 31, 35, and 43; claims 2, 6-9, 11, 21, 23, 27-29, 37, 38, 44, and 45 have been canceled; and claims 46 and 47 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-5, 10, 12-20, 22, 24-26, 30-36, 39-43, 46, and 47 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Examiner Objections

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 14 and 35 due to informalities. The Applicants have amended the claims to correct the informalities. Therefore, the withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

3.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

In paragraphs 2-3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Emery, et al. (US 5,758,281). The Applicants have amended the claims to better distinguish the claimed invention from Emery. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Emery discloses a Personal Communication Service (PCS) that uses the Advanced Intelligent Network (AIN) to integrate wireline and wireless networks. In this context, Emery describes wireless call processing in columns 16-24. However, Emery does not teach or suggest any system or method for relocating mobile terminals following an event such as an MSC system restart and reload.

As described in the Applicants' specification on page 7, lines 12-16, the claimed invention is directed toward a system and method that facilitates quickly relocating mobile terminals while reducing the congestion in the network that is produced by globally paging for every mobile terminal that was registered in the MSC prior to the system failure. Claim 1 has been amended to recite a method of locating a mobile terminal in a mobile communications network after location information for the mobile

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terminal has been lost by a serving mobile switching center (MSC). Prior to losing the location information, the method detects when the mobile terminal has entered a new roaming area within the service area of the serving MSC. The new roaming area is comprised of two or more location areas, each of which is comprised of one or more cells. Roaming area information of the new roaming area is then obtained and stored in a database. After losing the location information, the serving MSC retrieves the roaming area information from the database, and primary pages the mobile terminal within the new roaming area using the roaming area information stored in the database.

The claimed method differs from the prior art in several respects. Primarily, in Emery and other prior art, the database (HLR) only stored the identity of the MSC where the mobile terminal was located. Therefore, after an MSC system restart and reload, the MSC had to globally page for the mobile terminal throughout the entire service area of the MSC because more defined location information was not available. In the claimed method, the newly invented "roaming area" (which is defined in claim 1 as being a subset of the MSC service area) is stored in the database. Therefore, after an MSC system restart and reload, the serving MSC first pages for the mobile terminal in the roaming area retrieved from the database. This reduces the amount of paging required because the serving MSC does not have to page in the remainder of the service area. Note that the newly invented "roaming area" (which is a subset of the MSC service area) should not be confused with the prior art notion of "roaming" (which involves traveling outside the service area of the serving MSC).

This solution is not taught or suggested by Emery. Therefore, the withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of amended claim 1 are respectfully requested.

Claims 3-5, 10, and 12-20 depend from amended claim 1 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel and unobvious elements of claim 1. Therefore, the allowance of claims 3-5, 10, and 12-20 is respectfully requested.

Independent system claim 22 corresponds to method claim 1. Claim 22 has been amended to recite a system for locating a mobile terminal in a mobile communications network after location information for the mobile terminal has been lost by the serving MSC. The system includes a serving MSC adapted to detect when the mobile terminal has entered a new roaming area within the service area of the serving

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MSC and to obtain roaming area information of the new roaming area. The new roaming area is comprised of two or more location areas, each of which is comprised of one or more cells. The system also includes a database connected to the serving MSC and configured to store the roaming area information. The serving MSC is further adapted to retrieve the roaming area information from the database and to issue a primary page for the mobile terminal within the new roaming area whenever the serving MSC loses the location information for the mobile terminal.

The allowance of amended claim 22 is respectfully requested for the reasons discussed above for claim 1.

Claims 22, 24-26, 30-36, and 39-43 depend from amended claim 22 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel and unobvious elements of claim 22. Therefore, the allowance of claims 22, 24-26, 30-36, and 39-43 is respectfully requested.

4.) New Claims

New claim 46 recites a method of restoring location information for a mobile terminal operating within a service area of a serving MSC after the location information has been lost by the serving MSC. Prior to losing the location information, the method includes defining two or more roaming areas within the service area of the serving MSC. Each of the two or more roaming areas comprises two or more location areas, and each of the two or more location areas comprises one or more cells. Additionally, an identity of a roaming area where the mobile terminal is located is stored in a database. After losing the location information, the serving MSC retrieves the identity of the roaming area from the database, and primary pages the mobile terminal within the identified roaming area.

The allowance of new claim 46 is respectfully requested for the reasons discussed above for claim 1.

New claim 47 depends from claim 46 and recites further limitations in combination with the novel and unobvious elements of claim 46. Therefore, the allowance of claim 47 is respectfully requested.

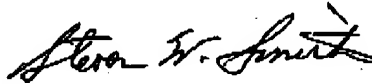
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 1, 3-5, 10, 12-20, 22, 24-26, 30-36, 39-43, 46, and 47.

The Applicants request a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven W. Smith
Registration No. 36,684

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Ericsson Inc.
6300 Legacy Drive, M/S EVR 1-C-11
Plano, Texas 75024

(972) 583-1572
steve.xl.smith@ericsson.com